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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture  
Bureau of  
Information

# Selected Speeches and News Releases

August 18 - August 25, 1988

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# News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

## USDA ANNOUNCES SEPTEMBER MEETING ON CONTAGIOUS EQUINE METRITIS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold a public meeting Sept. 27-28 to discuss import regulations for contagious equine metritis (CEM), a venereal disease of horses and other equines.

"We would like to get viewpoints and comments from the horse industry and the public to see if any changes are needed or warranted in our import regulations," said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The meeting will be in Room 107-A of USDA's Administration Building, The Mall, from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Updated scientific information that may affect current CEM regulations will be presented during the meeting.

CEM, which can severely affect horse reproduction and breeding operations, was first reported in early 1977 in the United Kingdom. Currently, 13 countries are known to be infected with the disease.

The United States has restricted the importation of breeding age horses from known infected countries since September 1977. However, isolated outbreaks of CEM were found in Kentucky in 1978 and 1982 and in Missouri in 1979. In each instance, the disease was contained and the infection was eliminated.

Anyone may make a statement at the meeting or send a written statement to Dr. Chester A. Gipson, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Program Planning Staff, Veterinary Services, APHIS, USDA, Room 845 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782; phone (301) 436-8321. Statements will be included in the record of the meeting.

Notice of this meeting will be published in the Aug. 23 Federal Register.

Pat Rogers (301) 436-7776

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## 21 WATERSHED PROJECTS TO RECEIVE PLANNING ASSISTANCE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved 21 small watershed projects in 18 states to receive planning assistance under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954. These projects bring to 31 the number authorized during fiscal year 1988.

Wilson Scaling, chief of USDA's Soil Conservation Service, said local SCS offices will assist project sponsors with investigations and surveys necessary to develop plans to protect the watersheds from erosion and sedimentation damages and to reduce upstream flood damages.

The small watershed projects also improve fish and wildlife habitats, conserve water, improve water quality, and provide opportunities for public water supplies and increased water-based recreation, Scaling said.

The authorized projects are:

- Short-Scarham Creeks Watershed, Etowah, Marshall and Dekalb Counties, Ala.
- South Sauty Creek Watershed, Jackson, Marshall and DeKalb Counties, Ala.
- Town Creek Watershed, Marshall and DeKalb Counties, Ala.
- New Magma Watershed, Maricopa and Pinal Counties, Ariz.
- McCoy Wash Watershed, Riverside County, Calif.
- Red Wash Watershed, Moffat and Rico Blanco Counties, Colo.
- Indian River Bay Watershed, Sussex County, Del.
- Spring Creek Watershed, Jackson County, Fla. (also serves Alabama)
- Piscola Creek Watershed, Brook and Thomas Counties, Ga.
- Mission-Lapwai Creek Watershed, Lewis and Nez Perce Counties, Idaho
- Honey Creek Watershed, Vigo County, Ind.
- Mud Creek Watershed, Barry, Eaton and Ionia Counties, Mich.
- Long Beach Watershed, Harrison County, Miss.
- Thirty Mile Creek Watershed, Blaine County, Mont.
- Wild Horse Creek Watershed, Payne County, Okla.
- South Edisto Watershed, Bamberg and Barnwell Counties, S.C.
- Woodrow Watershed, Lee County, S.C.
- Sulfur Ford Creek Watershed, Cheatham, Montgomery, Robertson and Sumner Counties, Tenn.

—Lower Lake Champlain Watershed, Chittenden, Addison and Rutland Counties, Vt.

—Tributary of Evitts Run Watershed, Jefferson County, W. Va.

—Allison Draw Watershed, Laramie County, Wyo.

Leslie Wilder (202) 447-3608

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## USDA ENCOURAGES CRP SIGNUPS FOR DROUGHT-AFFECTED ERODIBLE LAND

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture said today that farmers with highly erodible cropland affected by the drought should consider enrolling it in the Conservation Reserve Program during the current signup period ending Aug. 31.

“Enrollment in CRP is another option available to help farmers affected by the 1988 drought,” said Vern Neppl, acting executive vice president of USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation.

“Producers may bid to enroll in CRP eligible land which has not been harvested in 1988 due to the drought,” Neppl said. “If their bids are accepted, the producers will receive their first CRP rental payments in 1988. Also, they will be guaranteed payments for nine more years, an additional source of income regardless of weather conditions during those years.”

Cropland that has been hayed in counties approved for drought relief is eligible for CRP if it meets program requirements, but there may be a reduction in the 1988 payment, Neppl said.

Producers also have the option of enrolling eligible land in the 1989 CRP during this signup period.

Under CRP, producers receive annual rental payments for 10 years to keep highly erodible cropland out of production and planted with grass or trees. CRP participants also receive cost-share payments of up to 50 percent of the cost to establish the vegetative cover.

Enrollment of erodible land in CRP will help farmers meet the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, Neppl said. Producers must have an approved conservation plan for erodible land in place by Jan. 1, 1990 to remain eligible for USDA program benefits.

More than 25.5 million acres have been enrolled in CRP during the first six signups. The USDA goal is to bring 40-45 million acres into the program by the end of 1990.

Producers interested in enrolling in CRP should contact their Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county offices for details.

Bob Feist (202) 447-6789

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## USDA ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL CHANGE IN UPLAND COTTON PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced several changes designed to ensure that U.S. upland cotton will be fully competitive in world markets.

Effective today, when the upland cotton loan rate plus the sum of accrued interest and warehouse charges (except compression) exceed the adjusted world price (AWP), the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation will not require payment of that portion of the interest and will pay that portion of the warehouse charges that is determined to be necessary to permit upland cotton loan collateral to be redeemed with cash at the AWP.

Currently, when upland cotton pledged as loan collateral is redeemed with cash, the redeemer must pay all the accrued interest plus warehouse charges previously paid by the CCC.

Under the new procedure for cash redemptions, when the AWP is:

1. Below the loan rate for the base quality (Strict Low Middling 1 1/16 inch, micronaire 3.5 through 4.9, upland cotton) of 52.25 cents per pound for the 1987 crop and 51.8 cents per pound for the 1988 crop, CCC will not require the payment of any interest and will pay all of the warehouse charges.

2. Above the base loan rate by less than the sum of the accrued interest and warehouse charges, CCC will not require the payment of that portion of the accrued interest and will pay that portion of the accrued warehouse charges that are determined to be necessary to permit the loan collateral to be redeemed at the AWP.

3. Above the base loan rate by as much as or more than the sum of the accrued interest and warehouse charges, CCC will require the payment of

all accrued interest and will not pay any of the accrued warehouse charges. In such case, the loan collateral may be repaid at the loan rate plus accrued interest and any warehouse charges previously paid by CCC.

Bob Feist (202) 447-6787

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## USDA SAYS CONSERVATION PLANNING ON TARGET

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23—Conservation plans have been developed for 54 million acres of highly erodible cropland—38 percent of the 143 million affected by the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985.

In making the announcement, Wilson Scaling, chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, said plans have been implemented on 17 million acres, or about 12 percent of the affected land.

Under the act, a farmer who crops highly erodible land must have a conservation plan approved by Dec. 31, 1989, and implement it fully by Dec. 31, 1994, to remain eligible for USDA program benefits.

"We are on target for meeting the 1989 deadline," Scaling said. "We hope to have 65 percent of the plans completed by the end of 1988 and the remaining 35 percent completed by end of 1989."

Scaling said he is pleased with the progress, but urged farmers to act now if they have highly erodible cropland that needs a conservation plan. He said those who postpone requesting a conservation plan until the last minute, may find they have a long wait for the technical help needed to develop it.

"Our goals are to work with farmers to significantly reduce erosion on their cropland and to keep those farmers in business."

## Conservation Planning Progress Summary as of July 1, 1988

State	Highly Erodible Land (Heli) (Acres)	Heli Acres Determinations Completed (%)	Heli Acres Planned (%)	Heli Acres Plans Implemented (%)
Alabama	1,741,073	94	53	12
Alaska	49,584	100	93	20
Arizona	800,000	100	85	64
Arkansas	512,160	97	34	17
California	1,858,996	100	55	25
Colorado	9,150,000	72	45	17
Connecticut	10,000	98	96	6
Delaware	10,400	99	33	8
Florida	221,947	63	48	24
Georgia	1,200,000	68	37	21
Hawaii	50,000	0	0	0
Idaho	3,537,500	57	31	10
Illinois	4,502,000	91	43	5
Indiana	3,108,222	100	22	8
Iowa	12,508,678	80	38	10
Kansas	12,888,505	100	56	9
Kentucky	4,200,000	70	31	12
Louisiana	230,000	73	34	16
Maine	150,000	70	41	27
Maryland	300,000	96	43	6
Massachusetts	12,956	80	52	13
Michigan	626,000	72	35	12
Minnesota	2,100,000	66	50	39
Mississippi	1,318,669	98	44	21
Missouri	5,939,774	100	35	16
Montana	13,700,000	43	34	11
Nebraska	9,709,152	97	31	13
Nevada	105,548	73	52	35
New Hampshire	5,129	100	68	7
New Jersey	70,100	94	15	0
New Mexico	2,200,000	45	40	8
New York	1,100,316	77	46	15
North Carolina	1,405,400	61	28	4
North Dakota	6,705,384	50	23	5

Ohio	1,659,368	100	29	8
Oklahoma	4,700,000	97	29	7
Oregon	1,927,000	93	28	23
Pennsylvania	1,564,597	91	44	7
Puerto Rico	4,000	29	26	22
Rhode Island	200	87	35	9
South Carolina	417,360	69	27	13
South Dakota	3,718,307	100	35	10
Tennessee	2,513,100	58	34	8
Texas	15,586,182	62	40	13
Utah	837,000	52	45	36
Vermont	78,100	68	47	4
Virginia	1,054,800	85	33	7
Washington	3,500,000	94	33	9
West Virginia	60,000	76	49	14
Wisconsin	3,200,000	34	18	10
Wyoming	804,000	89	57	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>143,652,007</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12</b>

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## USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Milton J. Hertz today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 10.68 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 9.82 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 9.74 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 5.34 cents per pound.

Minimum loan repayment rates for 1987 crop loans are the higher of the world price or 50 percent of the loan rate. For 1988 crop rice, the minimum repayment rates are the higher of the world price or 60 percent of the loan rate.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$6.42 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$6.11 per hundredweight;

—short grain, \$5.93 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3:00 P.M. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Aug. 30, 1988 at 3:00 P.M. EDT, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-5954

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## **USDA UNDERSECRETARY TO HOLD MISSOURI TOWN MEETING ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**WASHINGTON**, Aug. 24—Under Secretary of Agriculture Roland R. Vautour will hold a town meeting on rural development in Jefferson City, Mo., Tuesday, Aug. 30, from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Harry S. Truman Building, 301 High St.

The meeting is the fourth in a series sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to elicit views of local citizens on rural development issues.

“We invite Missouri residents to participate in this town meeting,” said Vautour. “With input from public officials, business leaders and local citizens, we hope to bring forward innovative ideas in business, farming and economic policy that can help diversify and strengthen rural economies.”

Also scheduled to participate in the meeting are U.S. Sen. Christopher S. (Kit) Bond (R-Mo.), and Jack Dietzmann, a Rolla, Mo., business leader and member of the secretary of agriculture’s National Advisory Council on Rural Development. Missouri Gov. John Ashcroft also will attend if his schedule allows.

Vautour said citizens in many rural communities have already taken steps to revitalize their economies. “In previous town meetings in New Mexico, Nebraska and Idaho, we have seen that economic diversification has helped rural economies grow and has created new opportunities for area residents.”

As USDA’s undersecretary for small community and rural development, Vautour is in charge of programs that assist economic revitalization of the nation’s small and rural communities. In addition, he oversees USDA’s function as the lead agency for coordinating all federal programs aimed at strengthening rural development.

Rob Richards (202) 447-5371

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## VOLUNTEERS ASSIST IN DROUGHT SITUATION

WASHINGTON—"The drought affects everything you do," says farm homemaker Judy DeWitz of Tappen, N.D. "People are really getting down. It's hard to get them to meetings. Even though they don't have crops, they still think they ought to work in the fields, harvesting the crop that isn't there."

Judy knows something about setting up meetings. She's been a volunteer worker with the Cooperative Extension System ever since she was married in 1970. She grew up on a farm in Missouri, and learned about Extension as a child through the 4-H program. These days, she's president of the state Extension Homemakers organization, as well as a member of many other Extension and non-Extension volunteer advisory groups in her community.

"It's my belief that anyone who has talent to give to someone else has to share it or it's wrong," says Judy. "My family and I have grown with my volunteer work. When my two children are grown, I feel like I'll have some credentials in administration and organization to offer an employer."

At 43, Judy's in the typical age range of Extension volunteers nationally, as a recently released study funded by the Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows. The four-year project, conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, found that most volunteers are between the ages of 30-50, women, rural residents and employed. (Judy was a teacher before she married and has occasionally taught since.) Most are either professionals, farmers or managers and have education beyond high school.

The study found that Extension volunteers, some 3 million strong, work about 51 days for every day an Extension professional worked with them. In their work with 48 million other adults and youth, Extension's volunteers teach groups, answer individual questions, and help with projects and special events.

The Wisconsin study confirmed Extension's belief that volunteer partnerships are vital to getting university and USDA-based information to people. Its recommendations include involving more men, ethnic minorities, teens, young adults, and senior citizens. The study also concluded that more volunteer partnerships are needed in urban areas.

The study, based on interviews and reports with volunteers, clientele, community observers, and Extension agents, revealed that Extension volunteers need to concentrate their work on areas of greatest concern to society and local communities. The bottom line: volunteers are important in all highpriority Extension programs.

Milan Christianson, North Dakota Extension family life specialist, says that with a shrinking state population, social service agencies and other resources also shrink. This means less help for people in crisis. "That's why it's so important we have volunteers like Judy DeWitz, especially at this time."

Milan and others in North Dakota recently revised their "Support Network Directory" listing key resources for drought-stricken families. North Dakota Extension staff and volunteers are encouraging farmers and farm families to use the North Dakota Mental Health Association toll-free line for help.

Judy DeWitz and her husband have now moved into a church family service program, training peer counselors to help farm families. "I see this as a positive thing," says Milan. "Extension-trained volunteers are able to assist in many ways in their communities, helping agencies and organizations meet today's needs."

Is anything good coming out of the drought? Judy says, "We're all feeling the need to be more responsible for others. I see farmers so upset they don't go to the mailbox for several days at a time because all they get is bad news.

"It's hard now and will be even harder in the fall if there's not enough money to make payments. We're all finding ways to help families deal with depression, financial crisis, communication problems, and other signs of stress."

For more information on the work Extension volunteers are doing to help drought-stricken farm families, contact Jeanne Priester (202-447-2920) or Steve Mullen (202-447-5332), Extension Service-USDA, Washington, D.C.

Judith Bowers (202) 447-4271

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